



MEDIA RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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ELLSWORTH AFB, S.D. – Another unique attraction deeply rooted in military history has been confirmed for Dakota Thunder 2009, which is the base open house and air show, scheduled for May 30 and 31 and is free and open to the public. A TBM-Avenger will be flown to Ellsworth and placed on static display for public viewing.

The TBM Avenger's pilot, Mr. Rob Duncan, said, "We are excited to participate with Ellsworth in this year's event. The presence of our historical WWII torpedo bomber enforces the long-standing historical value of Ellsworth as a training base, in addition to the base's current peace-keeping mission with global reach. During the airshow, attendees are welcome to climb aboard the TBM Avenger to get a close view of the pilot's cockpit, turret gunner and radio operator crew stations."

Avengers are mostly known for their successes in the Pacific Theater attacking Japanese naval ships and land bases. TBMs flew from CVE escort and CV fast attack carriers as well as from U.S. held land bases. The Pacific Theater was a carrier war with TBM'S, and other aircraft sinking enemy ships and destroying their island bases.

In the North Atlantic, TBMs are credited with stopping the German submarine "wolfpacks." Deployed on CVEs, each with 20 to 28 TBMs, the aircraft convoys of allied ships. An Avenger could fly submarine patrols all day and night attacking German subs with machine guns, rockets, depth charges and bombs.

For more information, contact 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs at (605) 385-5056.